



# Council Connection

September 2012

## Funding News:

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to announce investments in new and continuing initiatives on a range of priorities. These initiatives will result in lasting improvements by focusing on youth self-advocacy, parent education, assistive technology, and community supports.

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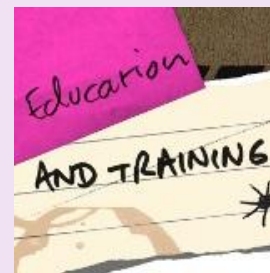
[In Other News...](#)

## NEW Council Grants for 2013

### ***Increasing Self-Advocacy Skills Among Youth***

#### **TransCen, Inc. ~ Developing the Advocacy Skills of Youth with Developmental Disabilities**

In collaboration with the Somerset County Public School System and ArtStream, TransCen, Inc. has designed a comprehensive, six-session self-advocacy training series for youth ages 14-21 in Somerset County. Three evidenced-based approaches will be used including the Whose Future Is It Anyway? curriculum; the Positive Personal Profile; and the acting-based instructional strategies of ArtStream. Adults and youth with developmental disabilities will be actively involved in the project as co-trainers, advisory committee members, and guest speakers. For more information contact, [Christy Stuart](#)



### ***Parent Education***

#### **TransCen, Inc. ~ Reaching More Families: Increasing Parent Knowledge and Skills**

TransCen, inc. will educate, train and build the skills of parents of children with developmental disabilities in Somerset County. The training series takes into account the geographic isolation and other logistical barriers faced by many families, including lack of transportation and childcare. Each family will be given a resource calendar that will include information about the entire workshop series, relevant dates, information on relevant topics, and resources. For more information contact, [Monica Simonsen](#)

#### **Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) ~ Training Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities: Improving Access, Knowledge, & Skills**

This initiative will conduct education, training, and skill building activities for parents of children with developmental disabilities living on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Activities will include trainings on parent advocacy and inclusion of children with disabilities during the early childhood and school-age years. For more information contact, [Christopher Smith](#)

### **The Arc Baltimore ~ Parent Involvement, Educational Plans, Advocacy, Knowledge, & Skills (PEAKS)**

Parents of children with disabilities who are homeless or transient will have opportunities to learn about special education services and to build advocacy skills through training provided by The Arc Baltimore. Trainings will be held in various locations in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, including homeless shelters with an emphasis on places that are familiar and comfortable for participants. For more information contact, [Nellie Power](#)

## **Grants to Continue in 2013**

### ***Enhancing Advocacy***

#### **People On the Go of Maryland (POG) ~ Enhancing Advocacy & Public Policy Work**

In 2013 POG will continue to support local self-advocacy groups to be actively engaged in public policy by hosting leadership training events, facilitating mentoring projects, and conducting its first statewide conference. POG will once again sponsor a Legislative Internship by supporting a person with a significant developmental disability to work alongside seasoned advocates and legislators during the legislative session. For more information contact, [Ken Capone](#) or visit <http://pogmd.org/>



### ***Building Capacity***

#### **AT: LAST ~ All Together in the Mountains**

Focusing on assistive technology, AT: LAST, Inc. will continue building the capacity of teachers, child care providers, and therapists to provide meaningful inclusive activities to people with developmental disabilities of all ages. Digital communication boards will be field tested and modified for use during the development of the Individualized Plan. In addition, people with developmental disabilities who face communication barriers will have increased access to health care services by using assistive technology to express their medical wants and needs.

For more information contact, [Lisa Brodjieski](#) or visit, [www.matcoop.org](http://www.matcoop.org)

### ***Sustaining the Grassroots***

#### **The Arc Maryland ~ End the Wait Now! Campaign (ETWN)**

The Arc Maryland will receive a final year of Council funding to fully integrate the ETWN Campaign within its infrastructure, where the campaign's grassroots activities will be fully sustained. The campaign uses education and advocacy activities to gain support for funding the DDA Waiting List. With assistance from the Campaign, people with developmental disabilities and their families will be involved with-- and influence-- policy decisions that affect their lives.

For more information contact, [Laura Carr](#) or visit, [www.endthewaitnow.com](http://www.endthewaitnow.com)

**For more information about ALL of the Council's  
New & Continuation grants for 2013 visit, [Projects](#)**

## **In Other News...**

### **Council Documentary Wins Regional Emmy Award**

"Departing Rosewood" is a short documentary that follows one man's journey from Maryland's oldest and largest institution to a home of his own in the community.

The film was recognized as best in the category of program specials in Public/Current Community Affairs. To view the documentary online or order a free copy visit, [Departing Rosewood](#)



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### **Maryland Disability Law Center to Host 2012 Election Voter Forums**

MDLC will host 2 voter forums for people with disabilities in advance of the 2012 Presidential election. For dates/locations and times visit, [MDLC Website](#)

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### **Turner Classic Movies (TCM) & Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts partner to highlight films that address Disability**

TCM will dedicate the month of October to exploring the ways people with disabilities have been portrayed in film. "The Projected Image: A History of Disability in Film" will air on Tuesdays, beginning October 2nd at 8:00 p.m. For more information, [Alliance for Inclusion](#)

Other resources to use for Disability History & Awareness month include:

[What's Possible: The Stories of 9 Changed Lives](#) publication & the [Departing Rosewood](#) documentary.

**Tom Webb, Council Chairperson | Brian Cox, Executive Director | Angela Castillo-Epps, Editor**

**Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council**

**Phone: 1.800.305.6441 ~ MD Relay: 711 ~ Fax: 410.333.3686**

**Website: [www.md-council.org](http://www.md-council.org) ~ Email: [Info@md-council.org](mailto:Info@md-council.org)**

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